

### **REMARKS**

In this reply, Claims 10-12 and 14-16 are amended. Claims 1-9 and 13 are canceled. Therefore, Claims 10-12 and 14-16 are pending in the application. The amendments to the claims as indicated herein do not add any new matter to this application. Furthermore, amendments made to the claims as indicated herein have been made to exclusively improve readability and clarity of the claims and not for the purpose of overcoming alleged prior art.

### **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Examiner wrote on page 6 of the Office Action that Claims 10-12 and 14-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 10-12 have been rewritten in the manner that the Examiner suggested. Therefore, the allowance of Claims 10-12 is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-16 depend from Claims 10-12, respectively. Therefore, the allowance of Claims 14-16 is also respectfully requested.

### **CLAIM REJECTIONS—35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Claims 1-9 and 13 are canceled.

### **CONCLUSION**

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

Hickman Palermo Truong & Becker LLP

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